



Council Study Meeting
January 19, 2016
6:00 p.m.
City Council Chambers

Agenda

1. Presentation of a departmental update from Fire Chief Chia
2. Other items

City Council Study Meeting

1.

Meeting Date: 01/19/2016

Information

Subject

Presentation of a departmental update from Fire Chief Chia

Information

A power point presentation will be given by Fire Chief Chia.

Attachments

Fire Dept. Memo

Memo

TO: Mayor Kelly Shaw and City Council Members
CC: City Manager Ryan Waller
FROM: Fire Chief Gregory M. Chia
DATE January 12, 2016
RE: Fire Department

I took the position as Fire Chief in May of 2015. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with information regarding the Department, as well as the action plan staff intends to take in order to develop a comprehensive work plan to address the following:

1. Increased demands for service;
2. Departmental staffing and structure; and
3. Capital

Increased demand for service

The Department is charged with providing a vital service to the community. Over the last few years, however, the requests for service have increased. There are a number of reasons for this increase, such as: community growth, a reliance of citizens to use the 911 system prominently, proximity to Des Moines metro and an aging population.

The following information identifies the increase for service in the past ten years. There is no one specific reason for the increase. It seems to be a culmination of many changes in the needs of the citizens and response requirements taken on by the fire department.

Type of Alarm Report

Alarm Date Between {01/01/2015} And {12/31/2015}

- Medical 87.50%
- Regular Fire 7.12%
- **False Alarms 4.8%**
- Investigation 2.89%
- Still 2.28%
- Special .09%
- Standby & Second .04%

Service Request Report

Historical Request for Service:

Year:	#
2005:	1444
2006:	1614
2007:	1590
2008:	1622
2009:	1565
2010:	1730
2011:	1728
2012:	1884
2013:	1965
2014:	2053
2015:	2099

One significant measure of public safety, regarding fire and emergency medical service events, is response time. Parameters outlined by the National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) indicate Indianola Fire Department is not meeting the criteria within the standard when responding to emergency medical service and fire incidents. There are several factors that impact response time, which I will review during the study session.

Departmental staffing and structure

The actions of the employees providing this service is very professional, but a point in time will come, that the service will begin to show affects of the increase in demand. Unfortunately the increased demands will have a negative effect to the performance of the employees and equipment.

As you can see in the attached chart titled “Staff Count”, the City ranks the highest in number of calls per FTE in central Iowa.

In addition to the staffing, the current structure is not ideal for communications. The organizational structure of the department has not changed for some time and the need to identify appropriate communication avenues for employees impacts the results on emergency events and daily operations. The efficiency as well as information transfer is dependent on a strong structure that is simple to implement, identifies positions and responsibilities.

Capital

The facility which houses the fire department is far out dated to appropriately house the equipment, staff and apparatus. Its compliancy to house female employees and the design to limit cross contamination are at best below the standard. All of these limitations affect safe operations and response times to emergency events. The department currently has two other facilities where

equipment and apparatus are being stored. The arrival of the new medic unit this spring will require that apparatus will be moved to one of the other facilities due to space restrictions.

I have provided in the powerpoint a chart of all apparatus the department owns and operates. Along with the apparatus the department has supporting equipment that is at the end of its service life. The point where maintenance is more costly than the purchase of new is going to be a decision that has to occur. Research on the decisions to be made concerning equipment and apparatus will be followed up on and communicated to council and city administration. The department and city need to be fiscally responsible when researching these issues. Equipment that is practical for this department and the service it is providing are instrumental in the decision making process.

It is staff's recommendation that these key areas be researched in order to develop a comprehensive solution that works for the Department and meets the community's expectations.

I will be in attendance at the January 19th study meeting to review a powerpoint presentation.

Department Name	Population	Staff Count				Calls Per Year	Calls per FTE
		Career	Part-Time	Paid/On-Call	Volunteer		
Altoona Fire Department	15,653	9	20		1	1900	211
Ankeny Fire Department	51567	25		48		3100	124
Bondurant Fire Department	3860	1-cler		23	1		
Camp Dodge Fire Dept							
Carlisle Fire Department	3951	0	7			550	
Clive Fire Department	16,590	13	40		3	1600	123
Delaware Fire Department	8317	0	0	17	0	0	
Des Moines Communication							
Des Moines Fire Dept	203,000	268				24,000	90
DM Airport (132nd FW)							
Elkhart Fire Department	691						
Granger Fire Department	1367	0					
Grimes Fire Department	9335	8	30			790	99
Huxley Fire Department	3385				30		
Indianola Fire Department	15108	9	17	24		2100	233
Johnston Fire Department	19,798	12	25			1310	109
Madrid Fire Department	2551						
Maxwell Fire Department	916						
Mitchellville Fire Dept	2256						
Northern Warren Fire Dept							
Norwalk Fire Department	9639	4	6	26		800	200
Pleasant Hill Fire Dept	9082	1		45		1000	
Polk City Fire Department	3,976	0	18	30	0	0	
Polk County Emerg Mgmt							
Polk County Comm.							
Racom							
Runnells Fire Department							
Saylor Fire Department							
Urbandale Fire Department	41,776	31	17			3100	100
Waukee Fire Department	17077	8	24			1200	150
West Des Moines Fire Dept	61,255	57		49	0	2900	51
Windsor Heights Fire Dept	4891	5	7	9		500	100
West Des Moines EMS	61255	80 (FT + PT)				7226	90
* FTE = Is a Full Time Employee							

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